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(WASHINGTON) -- Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) announces that the \$250 economic recovery payments for Social Security recipients, which were provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, begin to go out today May 7 – with the goal of all these payments being sent out by the end of this month.

“In our state 996,828 Missourians will be receiving a \$250 recovery payment,” said Congressman Russ Carnahan.

“These economic recovery payments are especially important to millions of older and disabled Americans – many of whom are on fixed incomes and have been hit especially hard by the economic crisis that has swept the country.”

These payments will make a difference in the lives of more than 50 million Americans. Social Security is the only source of income for nearly one-third of all non-married seniors receiving Social Security.

The median annual income for non-married Social Security recipients over age 65 who are women is only \$13,151.

The median annual income of non-married Social Security recipients over age 65 who are men is only \$17,611.

Nearly 30 percent of non-married Social Security recipients who are women over age 65 are poor or near-poor – with 17.4 percent living below the federal poverty line and another 10.8 percent with incomes below 125 percent of the poverty line.

“The Recovery Act signed by President Obama on February 17 is historic, sweeping legislation,” said Congressman Carnahan. **“In addition to creating or saving 3.5 million jobs and providing a tax cut for 95 percent of working families, it contains these \$250 economic recovery payments for retired Americans, disabled veterans, and others. These payments will help millions of Americans meet some of their short-term basic needs in this struggling economy.”**

By mid-May, payments to recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will also

begin to go out. In addition to the economic recovery payments being made to Social Security and SSI recipients, the Recovery Act also provides these payments to disabled veterans and Railroad Retirement recipients. The payments to Railroad Retirement recipients are scheduled to begin to go out in late May and the payments to disabled veterans in June. In total, more than 50 million Americans will get this one-time disbursement.

If someone regularly receives benefits from two or more of these programs – such as Social Security and Railroad Retirement, or a disabled veterans' benefit and SSI – he or she will receive just one \$250 payment.

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